on 12th January, 2006 to urge him to raise the rate of interest on EPF by enhancing rate of interest on Special Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has already notified the rate of interest to be paid to the members on Employees Provident Fund @ 8.5% for the year 2005-06. There is no proposal under consideration to increase the rate of interest on Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) which has been fixed after due consideration.

Employment to educated youths

†974. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the number of educated unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details of existing ratio of educated youths and total number of unemployed youths in the country;

(c) whether Government are taking any special measures to provide employment to these youths and to bring down unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available was conducted during 1999-2000. As per this survey, number of unemployed persons on usual status basis was estimated at around 90 lakh. 60% of the unemployed i.e. around 54 lakh were educated (secondary & above).

(c) and (d) Creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan Period was targeted. Out of these, around 3 crore were to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

generated in the normal growth process and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes. Besides this, latest initiative taken by the Government in the rural areas is the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural house hold.

Rehabilitation of child labourers

†975. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the project work on child labour;

(b) if so, the details for the last two years and the steps that have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received complaints of non-implementation of child labour rehabilitation programmes by several States; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the benefit of the children withdrawn from work in 250 districts of 21 States in the country. Implementation of the scheme is being reviewed through the periodical reports submitted by the district authorities. The project is also monitored by the field visits of the Central and State level officials.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Prohibition on child labour

976. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently issued notices to the Central and State Government seeking complete prohibition on child labour in all forms;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.